AL.1.1231-2

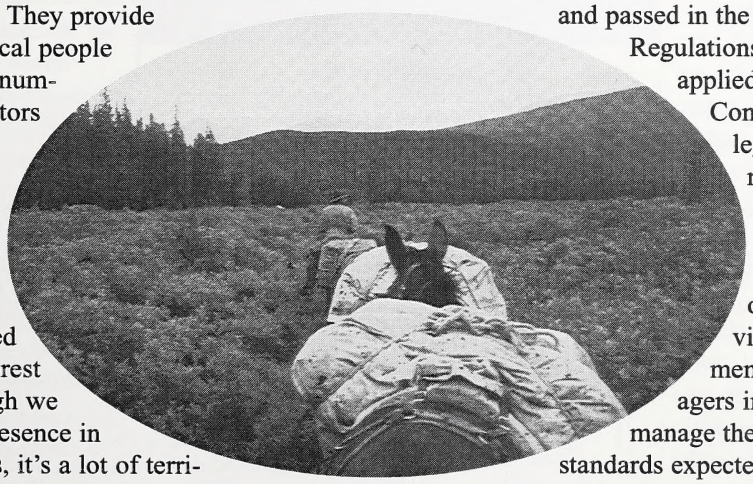
The Steward
Newsletter of Alberta's Natural and Protected Areas and the People Who Care for Them
Naturally Yours
ISSUE 33 WINTER 1996

Willmore Wilderness Park

by Len Stroebel, Operations Supervisor, Grande Cache Ranger Station - Foothills District

Perched on the edge of and extending well into the Rocky Mountains, Willmore Wilderness Park is 459 700 hectares (ha) of breathtaking natural wilderness. It is virtually free of any industrial or developmental activity (some exploration was conducted before the inception of the park in 1959). There are no roads, showers, electrical outlets or any of the other trappings we have come to know as "civilization." One can travel for days without seeing another human being. Principles of pack-in, pack-out and "no trace" camping apply.

If this sounds appealing then the user must also be aware that there are no phones in the event of an emergency, no bridges to cross swollen rivers or park staff to give directions. Trails are not maintained and are sometimes hard to follow. One soon becomes aware that this is wilderness. There are several experienced guides and outfitters who operate within the park. They provide opportunities for local people and a considerable number of overseas visitors to experience Willmore with a few comforts and less fear of becoming lost.



The park is managed by the Land and Forest Service and although we try to maintain a presence in the summer months, it's a lot of territory to cover on horseback or foot. Patrols are carried out more to monitor activity and do impact assessments. Although no motorized access is permitted in the park for the users, there are a few exceptions when one might see a helicopter or ATV. These exceptions are for emergency use, for management or protection of the park or for trappers maintaining their lines in the winter months. Natural Resources - Fish and Wildlife regulations apply to hunting and fishing within the park. Fish and Wildlife also do enforcement in the park.

Trails within the park were originally constructed by Alberta Forest Service staff to enable patrol routes and conduct forest management in the 1940s and 1950s. Several cabins were also built for this same purpose and most still remain. The park was also travelled in the first half of the century by indigenous peoples and many graves exist within the park from this time period. Respect for these sites is imperative.

The *Willmore Wilderness Parks Act* has been rewritten and passed in the legislature. A new set of Regulations will now be drafted and applied to the park. Consequently, one piece of legislation will replace a number of pieces presently being used. This new Act, the Regulations and departmental initiatives of community-based service and local empowerment will give local managers improved tools. They can manage the park and enforce the standards expected of users, so that the area remains a truly wilderness experience. ▼

Feeling the Pulse of Spring - Alberta Wildflower Survey 1995

by Elisabeth Beaubien, Research Associate

Since the spring of 1992, the Devonian Botanic Garden has been keeping its finger on nature's pulse, as home to the Alberta Wildflower Survey. As part of this network, over 200 volunteers report, for their corners of the province, when 15 of our common wildflower species bloom. The year 1995 was the ninth for this exciting and informative project. So . . . let's take a look at some of the highlights of this year.

What a wild spring Alberta had! While fires raged across the north, 100-year floods swept the south!

The El Nino event, which was predicted by atmospheric scientists last winter, disappeared rapidly in March. Temperatures were cool for much of Alberta during the growing season. The following is taken from the Alberta Agricultural Weather Summaries. November to March had above normal temperatures. March was warm and very dry and April was cool and dry. May was dry for the north, wet in the south. June weather was near normal, though the southwest received lots of rain.

Spring flowering was delayed substantially. A review of the 1995 data received showed the following: prairie crocus flowered more than one week later than average (Calgary, Red Deer), which is later than in any of the other eight years of this survey (except 1989). Saskatoon bushes underwent their latest flowering in nine years in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton.

Saskatoon

This timing agrees with another Alberta phenology survey—the May Species Count. This survey counts which species of wildflowers are blooming (as well as what birds, butterflies, etc., are seen) during the last weekend in May. Derek Johnson, who coordinates the plant records, reports that spring 1995 was the "latest in 13 years!"

Here are some comments on the 1995 season from observers, starting in the south:

- *M. Winkler (Twin Butte): "flowering was poor until the floods; when we saw masses of all flowers, like we don't see here every year."*
- *J. Buchanan-Mappin (Kananaskis): a very snowy month of May meant few crocuses.*
- *E. Ross (Calgary: Fish Creek): frequent rain in July brought "flowers such as prairie clover and blazing star which we have not seen in this area before." But the season was late: saskatoon berries were still not ripe at the end of July!*
- *D. Blean (Calgary): prairie crocus had excellent production on Tom Campell's hill because of the burn there last year. (This species does best with grazing and occasional burns).*
- *B. Bargholz (Brownfield) reported large numbers of tent caterpillars "about the 12th year in a row now" and also the first appearance of wood lilies in many*

Continued on next page

years. [If these lilies were in the forest, there may be a link here. The increased light under leafless trees and nutrients from caterpillar droppings may give the lily plants the extra boost needed to flower.]

- *V. Hudson (St. Paul), C. Lumley (Lloydminster) and Mr. and Mrs. C. Flint (Paradise Valley) reported that despite severe drought, saskatoon berries were abundant!*

What else have we learned?

We now know how much heat it takes to make these plants flower, and have begun to correlate wildflower bloom with some crop pests, thanks to funding from Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. We suggest now that the best time to spray for one weed species, field scabious, is when dandelions are in full bloom (about one week after full bloom of saskatoon), and the best time to treat winter annuals in cropland is when the prairie crocus plants in the pastures are starting to flower? By treating weeds and insects at the optimal vulnerable stage, repeat or heavy treatments are avoided, saving money and excess spray in the environment.

Prairie Crocus

Current work correlating pacific ocean temperatures with spring flowering times in central Alberta allows us to predict that spring 1996 will be average in its timing.

If you are interested in participating in the Alberta Wildflower Survey contact:

Elisabeth Beaubien, Research Associate,
Devonian Botanic Garden
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2E1

Phone: (403) 987-5455/3054

Fax: (403) 987-4141

E-mail: Elisabeth.Beaubien @ualberta.ca

A Landowner's Guide Prairie Raptors

A comprehensive guide for landowners and other prairie dwellers to the identification and conservation of eagles, hawks, owls, falcons and other birds of prey.

Published by the Authority of the Minister of Environment, Canadian Wildlife Service.

"Since the beginning of civilization, raptors have been the subject of admiration, wonder and even fear. Today we understand the importance of these magnificent birds to our prairie landscape and its ecosystem.

"Not only do birds of prey inspire the earth-bound viewer as they wheel and soar above the prairies, they also provide invaluable assistance to landowners in the control of agricultural pests.

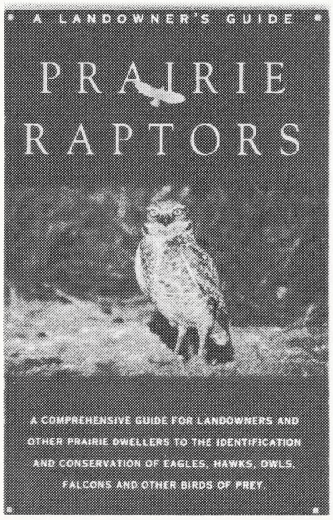
"Without knowledge, humans may do things that can pose dangers to the raptors of the prairie region. With the information included in this guide, landowners and other prairie dwellers can take steps to help secure the future for these impressive birds.

"Prairie Raptors is a practical, down-to-earth guide, written and researched by wildlife specialists with a special knowledge of the prairie region and

Continued on next page

of the concerns of prairie landowners.

- Includes a full-color identification guide to 25 hawks, eagles, falcons, owls and other birds of prey common to the prairie region.
- Provides useful information, written in clear and nontechnical language, on the simple steps landowners can take to help protect and conserve the habitats of prairie raptors—and the birds themselves.
- Includes instructions for building nesting boxes and platforms for raptors, and provides additional suggestions for those who wish to become more involved."


A LANDOWNER'S GUIDE
PRAIRIE RAPTORS
A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE FOR LANDOWNERS AND OTHER PRAIRIE DWELLERS TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND CONSERVATION OF EAGLES, HAWKS, OWLS, FALCONS AND OTHER BIRDS OF PREY

Single copies available from:
Communications
Directorate/Canadian Wildlife Service
Environment Canada, Prairie and Northern Region
Twin Atria Building, Room 200
4999 - 98 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T6B 2X3

How the Best Sites Can be Selected for Protection Under Alberta's Special Places

Alberta encompasses a vast geographic range from the U.S. border to the Northwest Territories and from the heights of the continental divide in the Rocky Mountains to the rolling prairies and boreal forest in the east. One of the main purposes of protected areas in Alberta is to conserve examples of the full array of this natural diversity. In doing so, it is necessary to divide the province, through a process of land classification, into units that reflect natural features. Such a classification is designed to organize and simplify information. There are two important tools that are available to help find the best examples of natural diversity. The first is the identification of Environmentally Significant Areas and the second is Gap Analysis.

Environmentally Significant Areas have been identified through inventory to contain important, useful and often sensitive features of the landscape, including stable ecosystems, rare and endangered species, travel corridors for migratory species, significant geologic or physiographic features, unique habitats, highly diverse areas and so on. These areas have been identified, mapped and described for much of the province, as well as rated as to their importance on a regional, provincial, national or international scale. **Gap Analysis** is a method to determine the features that new protected areas should contain and involves an analysis of the natural diversity of each of the province's natural subregions combined with an analysis of what is already contained within protected areas. The differences between what the natural diversity is and what existing protected areas contain are referred to as gaps. The natural diversity is described by classifying land in terms of units that reflect natural features. Such a classification helps to organize and simplify information.

Land classification is based on natural or biogeographic features such as geology, landform, soils, climate, vegetation, wildlife and hydrology. The classification system is set up in such a way that larger, more general categories of land are identified and then divided into smaller units on the basis of their specific natural characteristics. Because this kind of classification system separates larger units into smaller units we refer to it as working "from the top down."

Under the system, each unit, large or small, contains a pattern of features that clearly distinguish between various units. Larger units are more heterogeneous (they incorporate a greater variety of features) and

Continued on next page

the Canadian Shield Natural Region as an example

smaller units are more homogeneous (the variety of features is reduced). The largest units, the natural regions, are divided into subregions, which in turn may be divided into a series of natural history themes. These themes may then be further subdivided into finer levels.

Natural regions provide the big picture of Alberta's landscapes. Each of the landscape patterns of an individual region contain a mix of similar vegetation, soil and landform features. There are six natural regions in Alberta: Grassland, Parkland, Foothills, Boreal Forest, Rocky Mountain and Canadian Shield. Alberta's largest natural region is the Boreal Forest Region. The smallest is the Canadian Shield Region. The remaining four regions are comparable in size to each other.

Each of the six natural regions has been divided into subregions. A total of 20 subregions is recognized for Alberta. **Subregions** are areas with similar landscape patterns that are distinct from those patterns of other subregions. Different criteria, matched to the range and scale of natural features that occur within each natural region, are used to separate the subregions. For example, Grassland subregions are separated primarily on the basis of climatic, soils and vegetational factors whereas Boreal Forest subregions are separated by their vegetation, geology and landforms. Rocky Mountain subregions are distinguished by differences in environmental conditions associated with changes in elevation.

Natural history themes are the key working levels of classification for protected areas. They operate at a practical scale for describing the full range of Alberta's natural diversity. They can be **representative** of typical, widely distributed landscapes or **special**, which refers to unique or atypical features that are generally site-specific.

Three levels of themes are employed. The Level I Theme is a broad landscape type within a subregion. Level II Theme refers to a broad habitat/vegetation type within a Level I Theme. Level III Theme identifies a specific geological feature, plant community or species within a Level II Theme. Together with natural regions and subregions, themes make up a five-level classification system.

Level I Themes can be used to portray the natural diversity within the various natural regions and subregions. Level I Themes are the most important classification level because of their close linking of landforms and dependent lifeforms. Twenty categories of Level I Themes have been identified for the province as a whole. These Level I Themes appear in different combinations across the 20 subregions for a total of 166 Level I Themes.

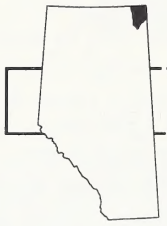
Since Level I Themes can be readily measured on existing maps, they are the most useful classification level for evaluating Alberta's protected areas network. In this way, Level I Themes help to identify gaps and deficiencies in the system. For purposes of protected areas planning, specific targets for extent of coverage have been set for Level I Themes.

The Special Places Provincial Coordinating Committee members are using this classification system, including both the Environmentally Significant Areas information and Gap Analysis, as a guide to help them consider the best sites that should be protected.

Continued on next page

Canadian Shield

A peripheral portion of the Canadian Shield extends into the far north



Kazan Upland Subregion

The Kazan Upland Subregion, north of Lake Athabasca, includes most of the exposed Canadian Shield that occurs in Alberta and is characterized by exposed, glaciated bedrock.

Geology and Landforms

The distinctive feature of the Kazan Upland Subregion is the extensive outcropping of granitoid Precambrian bedrock. The bedrock plays a direct role in the vegetation pattern because of the extent of the outcrops and its acidic nature. It is dominated by a complex of crystalline rocks. The predominant rocks are distributed in three major north-south trending belts—the western granitoids, the eastern granitoids, and the central granitic gneisses. The topography is rolling and local relief can be as great as 90 m. The bedrock is covered with patches of outwash or morainal deposits, and there are also eskers and roche moutonée knobs. Glacial erosion produced highly polished, striated and grooved rock surfaces. Rock-basin lakes are common throughout the subregion. Rivers are small and infrequent; most are of the slow-moving "muskeg" type.

Climate

Few climatic data are available but the climate generally is cool and subhumid with warm, dry summers and cold winters. The mean May-September temperature is about 12°C. Annual precipitation averages 320 mm.

Soils

Much of the Kazan Upland Subregion has no soil, being either exposed bedrock or where the amount of weathered material is too thin over bedrock to qualify as a soil. Where soils have developed in upland sites, Podzolics and Regosolics are most common. Organics and Cryosolics occur in the peatlands.

Natural Region

east corner of Alberta. This natural region contains two quite different subregions.

Athabasca Plain Subregion

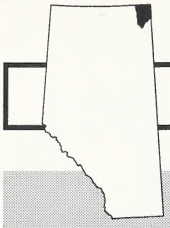
The Athabasca Plain Subregion includes part of the north shore of Lake Athabasca and an area south of Lake Athabasca. This subregion consists of characteristically shallow, glacial outwash deposits over Canadian Shield bedrock.

The Athabasca Plain Subregion is characterized by generally low relief. Fluvial and aeolian deposits predominate in the eastern portion; till and glaciofluvial deposits, in the west. Most deposits are sandy and derived from the Athabasca sandstone. Extensive stretches of sandy beach occur along Lake Athabasca, including a sand spit that juts 3 km into the lake at Sand Point. Distinctive landscape features include large areas of kame and kettle as well as active dunes. The kames, at over 60 m high, are among the largest in the world. The active dune system is the largest in Alberta. The paleodunes, although technically lying outside the Athabasca Plain, form a unit with other parts of the plain. These paleodunes are unique in Alberta—they are aligned differently than other dunes in the province. In addition, linear ridges of similar size are not known from any other place in the world. Numerous lakes dot the landscape and rivers are small and infrequent.

Climatic data are scarce, but the climate can be generally described as warm, moderately dry summers and long, cold winters. The mean May-September temperature is about 13°C and precipitation for this period averages 300 mm.

Soils of upland sites are predominantly Brunisolics developed in the sandy, coarse-textured parent materials. Podzolics develop in some moister sites. Organics predominate in wet depressional areas with Cryic Fibrisols perhaps most characteristic. Regosolics occur in areas of current aeolian activity.

Continued on next page



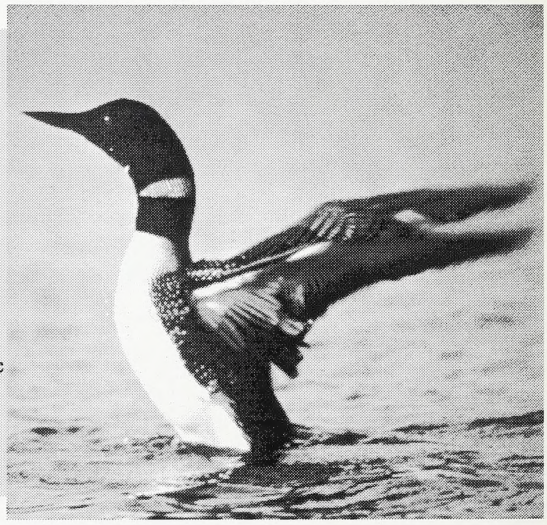
Kazan Upland Subregion

Vegetation

The vegetation of the uplands is a mosaic of rock barrens, jack pine open forest on sand plains and rocky hills, and black spruce in wet depressional peatlands. Jack pine forests are most widespread, especially in the northeast, and often contain aspen. The understory of these forests is quite simple and lichens are often as prominent as vascular plants. The forests of rocky sites typically contain jack pine, black spruce, and white birch. On sites with deeper Podzolic soils, forests of jack pine, white birch and black spruce have a better developed understory. Peatlands are mainly acidic, nutrient-poor bogs dominated by black spruce, tamarack, Labrador tea, reindeer lichens and peat mosses. Discontinuous permafrost is widespread in the peatlands.

Wildlife

Characteristic animals of upland jack pine forests include common nighthawk, gray jay, common raven, boreal chickadee, American robin, hermit thrush, dark-eyed junco, red squirrel, snowshoe hare, Canada lynx and black bear. Wetland and open water species include common loon, lesser scaup, bufflehead, Bonaparte's gull, spotted sandpiper, alder flycatcher, rusty blackbird, red-winged blackbird, moose, beaver and mink. Bald eagle and osprey are widely distributed, nesting near the numerous lakes. Golden eagle, which does not nest in the Boreal Forest, nests locally on cliffs. Rare peregrine falcons have also nested on cliffs in the area. The Pacific loon is a subarctic species that has bred in the subregion. Winter visitors from farther north include willow ptarmigan and, occasionally, barren-ground caribou and Arctic fox.



Existing Protected Areas

None

Special Steward Update

ISSUE 33 Winter 1996

ALBERTA ENDORSES CANADIAN BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

On January 17, 1996, Ty Lund, Minister Alberta Environmental Protection, announced Alberta's endorsement of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy. The strategy was developed as a result of the Canadian ratification of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in June of 1992. It has received extensive public and government review.

The strategy provides direction to ensure the long-term productivity, diversity and integrity of natural systems in Canada. The strategy will act as a guide to enhance sustainable development of natural resources in Alberta.

Alberta will incorporate the directions provided by the strategy into its own initiatives to sustain the environment. "In reality, we are already following this plan," said the Minster. "The Alberta Forest Conservation Strategy and Special Places are examples of specific strategies we are pursuing to protect biodiversity in this province. Our adoption of the Canadian Biodiversity strategy will put these specific initiatives in a national context, as well as provide guidelines for future conservation initiatives."

The goals of the strategy include:

- to use our biological resources in a sustainable manner.
- to move to an ecological approach to resource management, based on a better understanding of how ecosystems function.
- to improve Canadians' understanding of the value of biodiversity
- to provide citizens with opportunities to contribute to the development and implementation of resource policies, plans and programs
- to work with other countries to preserve biodiversity

Biodiversity - or biological diversity - refers to the variety of life on earth. The variety can be within a

species, among several species, among communities of plant and animal species, or among ecosystems. Healthy, diverse ecosystems perform "ecological services" such as produce oxygen and purify water. Our food, many of our medicines, and many important industrial products come from plants, animals and micro-organisms that are also sustained by healthy, diverse ecosystems.

"The strategy is not designed just to be followed by governments," said Mr. Lund. "It is also designed to be followed by industry, stakeholders and individuals to ensure a bright and healthy future." The strategy will be made widely available to schools, communities, businesses and organizations for use as an educational tool and a guide to action.

To obtain a copy of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy, please call the Alberta Environmental Protection Information Centre, 422-2079.

Contacts:

Dave Borutski
Alberta Environmental Protection — Strategic and Regional Support
(402) 427-0047 Fax: 422-5136

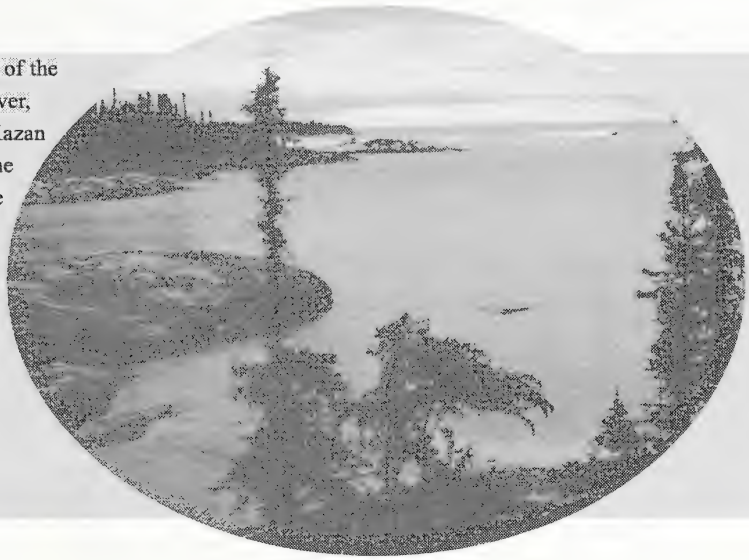
Peter Lee
Alberta Environmental Protection — Heritage Protection & Education Branch
(403) 427-5209 Fax: 427-5980

Athabasca Plain Subregion

Extensive forests dominated by jack pine occur on upland sites with sandy deposits. White spruce is codominant with jack pine on some sites. Peatlands range from relatively dry bogs dominated by jack pine, black spruce, Labrador tea, and reindeer lichens to wetter peatlands with black spruce, tamarack, Labrador tea, and peat mosses. Riparian habitats are not extensive but contain mixed forests of aspen, balsam poplar and white spruce that are similar to those of the Central Mixedwood Subregion.

The environment in the immediate vicinity of Lake Athabasca is different from the main upland portion of the subregion and there are significant differences between the north and south shores. "Park-like" open white spruce forests occur along the shore of Lake Athabasca. A number of significant (rare, endemic, disjunct) plant species occur in the subregion.

Little is known about the animals of the Athabasca Plain Subregion; however, there are similarities to both the Kazan Upland Subregion and, in jack pine forest and peatland habitats, to the adjacent Central Mixedwood Subregion. Sandhill cranes are notable breeding species here. As well, Arctic and Caspian terns are subarctic species that have nested in the subregion.



Athabasca Dunes Ecological Reserve (37.7 km2)

Egg Island Ecological Reserve (0.01 km2)

Continued on next page

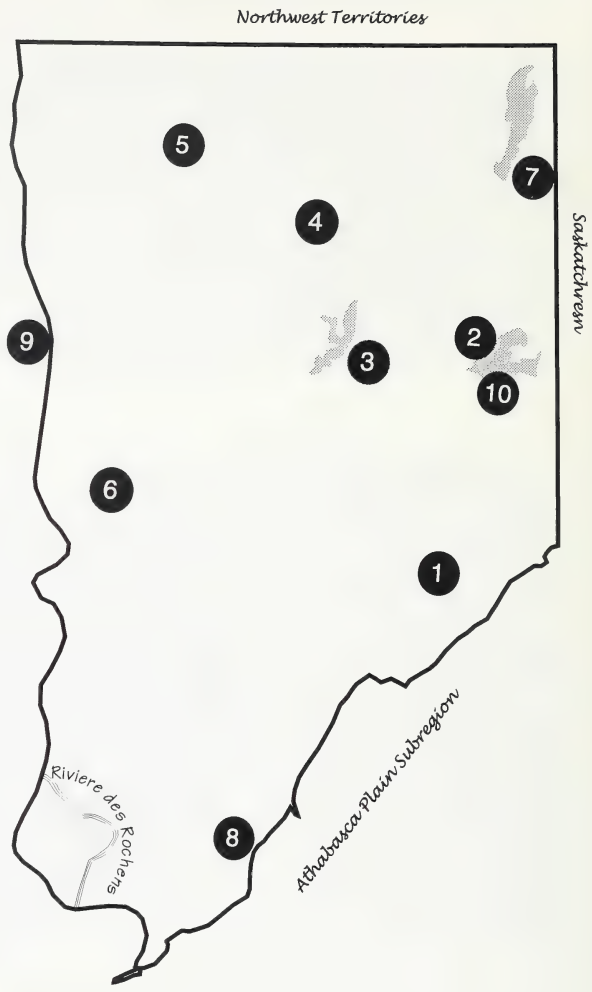
Kazan Upland Subregion

There are no protected areas in the Kazan Upland Subregion; therefore, all themes are lacking representation. Areas that could adequately fill representative gaps include the following and are shown on the accompanying map:

1 Wylie Lake
2 Colin Lake
3 Woodman-Alexander Lakes
4 Charles-Cornwall Lakes
5 Leland-Tulip Lakes
6 La Butte Creek

Special themes can be filled at:

7 Waugh Lake (Waugh Lake Volcanics Theme)
8 Glacial Lake Berg (Glacial Lake Berg Complex Theme)
9 Stony Islands (Paleozoic/Precambrian Unconformity Theme)
10 Colin Lake (Colin Lake Wetlands and Colin Lake Grasslands Themes)



The Wylie Lake, Charles-Cornwall and Leland-Tulip Lake areas are important for their bedrock outcroppings. All are outstanding representatives but the Charles-Cornwall and Leland-Tulip Lake areas contain additional terrain features of interest. Leland-Tulip also contains one of two known Pacific loon nesting areas in Alberta.

Colin Lake and Charles-Cornwall have important sand plain components. In addition, Colin Lake has a concentration of unique features. The Woodman-Alexander Lakes unit has one of the most diverse wetland complexes in the Kazan Upland.

Additional investigations are required along the western fringe to evaluate the best river representation. La Butte Creek is a large stream that looks like the area of greatest potential. Other very small sites would be needed to ensure adequate representation of some remaining Level III themes, including slender lady's tresses (Spiranthes lacera), known from the Fort Chipewyan area. The northern slender ladies' tresses is known only from this one location in Alberta. Nesting Caspian terns are represented in an area west of Wylie Lake—reconfirmation of their nesting status is desirable.

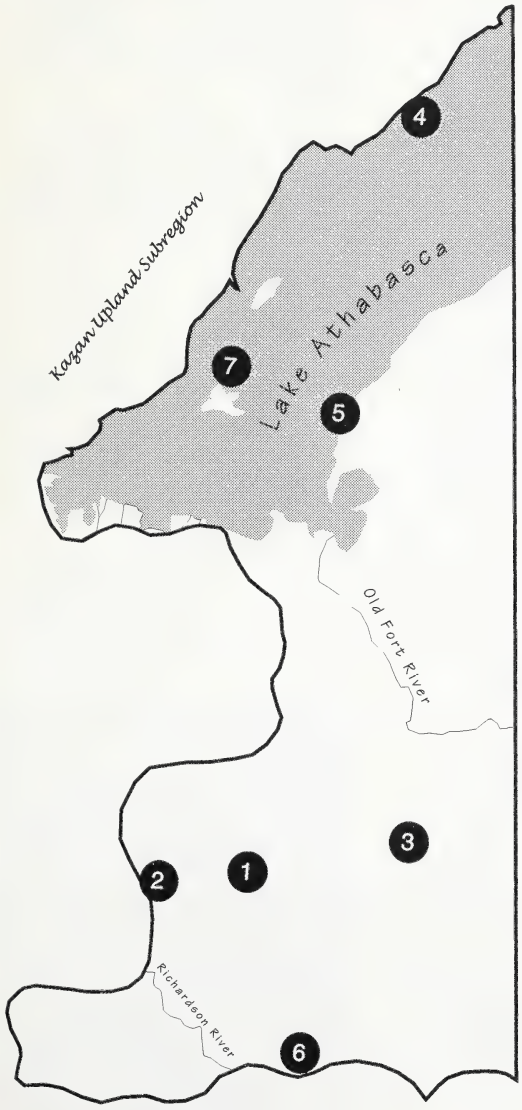
Many of the representative units are sufficiently large and diverse that they could accommodate tourism and recreation objectives. Although somewhat representative, the Andrew Lake area best serves tourism and recreation objectives.

Area Needs

Athabasca Plain Subregion

There is significant but only modest representation for most Level 1 Themes in the two protected areas in the Athabasca Plain Subregion. Most themes are represented at less than the desired targets. With the exception of the Athabasca Dunes, there is no representation of the Level 1 Special Themes.

Significant sites that would help achieve representative protected area targets include the following, which are shown on the accompanying map:



1 the Paxton-Larocque Lakes kame complex

2 the paleodune, stabilized dune and active dune area west and northwest of the Athabasca Dunes Ecological Reserve

3 the Old Fort River floodplain within the Archer-Bowen-Brander Lakes unit

Areas that would fill special theme gaps include:

1 the Paxton-Larocque Lakes kame complex

2 the paleodune, stabilized dune and active dune area west and northwest of the Athabasca Dunes Ecological Reserve

4 the north shore of Lake Athabasca at Fidler Point

5 the eastern part of the south shore of Lake Athabasca

6 the Crag and Tail area near the Marguerite River

7 Shelter-Sand Points with the offshore islands Bustard and Burntwood

If you wish to receive more detailed information on Environmentally Significant Areas, Gap Analysis or the Canadian Shield Natural Region, please contact the Heritage Protection and Education office (427-5209).

PRAIRIE PLANTWATCH: JOIN US!

What?

Prairie Plantwatch is a phenology (study of the seasonal timing of life cycle events) program that links students as the "eyes of science," tracking the green wave of spring moving north. Students develop scientific skills as they observe springtime changes in plants and learn about biodiversity. Students (initially grades 4-6) observe flowering of two wildflowers and common purple lilac and report the bloom times to central scientist Elisabeth Beaubien over the Internet (or electronic mail). The two wildflowers (prairie crocus and saskatoon) were selected from an ongoing "Alberta Wildflower Survey." Social sciences and mathematics curricula have great potential for material from this program, with information on Native peoples' use of the plants, and graphs of average flowering times for prairie cities. This information allows us to measure the earliness of spring and to understand some of the possible effects of climate change. A teacher's manual and poster provide information on how to observe, and how to use the data in class work.

Why?

Students have fun and learn through watching, recording, and comparing their results with other schools. They learn about ecological relationships while contributing electronically to data of significance to climate warming, which suggests the green wave will arrive earlier in the spring. This valuable seasonality information will help in decision-making by farmers and foresters, such as when to correctly time operations of planting, fertilizing, crop protection and how to predict harvest timing. The information can also help in wildlife management (e.g., during early springs, more deer fawns are produced); human health (pollen-warnings for allergy-sufferers), and tourism (best times to photograph flowers or animals, or to go fly-fishing). Plantwatch schools will receive verified data compiled from other schools by E. Beaubien, as well as a framable certificate.

Where?

Prairie Plantwatch is based at the University of Alberta's Devonian Botanic Garden, home of the Alberta Wildflower Survey. The spring '95 program involved a number of schools in the Edmonton area and a few from rural Alberta and the Northwest Territories. The program expands in 1996 to involve schools across the prairies and northern North America, throughout the range of the observed plant species.

THANKS! to supporters of this program:

- Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation
- Environment Canada: Biodiversity Convention and Ecological Monitoring offices/EcoAction funding
- Federation of Alberta Naturalists
- University of Alberta: Central Research Fund

Interested teachers!

Please register for Prairie Plantwatch '96 by e-mail or by post.

Contact: Elisabeth Beaubien,
Research Associate,
Devonian Botanic Garden
University of Alberta
Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 2E1

Phone: (403) 987-5455/3054
Fax: (403) 987-4141
E-mail: Elisabeth.Beaubien
@ualberta.ca

1995 Protected Areas Recognition Awards

It's Time .... To once again recognize our volunteer stewards for the valuable contribution they make to the Protected Areas Program.

Stewards who have been with the program for more than two years, and have consistently sent in inspection reports for two years in a row, have been awarded a program t-shirt. These recipients are:

1st Didsbury Scouts
Robert Faulds
Fort Saskatchewan Naturalist Society
Suzanne Lefebvre
Ivy Mewha
Elena Napora
Mark Piorecky
Denise Riopel
Darrell Smith
Genne Sproule
Christy Wahl
Hilda Wahl
Beaverhill Bird Observatory
Ross Ford Elementary School
Cheryl Lefebvre
Don Mewha
Gertie Meyer
Pembina Fish & Game Association
Redwater Junior Forest Wardens
Barb Smith
Fred Sproule
Hubert Taube
Ed Wahl
Youth and Volunteer Centre

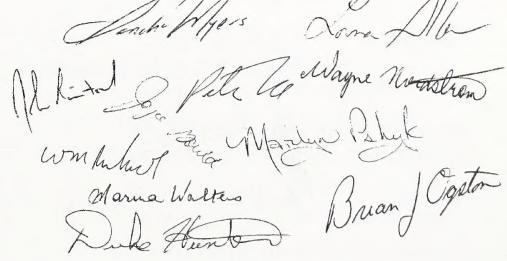
Stewards who have been with the program for more than five years, and have consistently sent in inspection reports for five years in a row, have been awarded a program sweatshirt. These recipients are:

Desmond Allen
Kathie Blackman
Susan Crump
David Dolph
Gord Galarneau
Robert Gouin
David Hanam
Susan Harrison
Margot Hervieux
Doris Hopkins
Eric Hopkins
W. Gordon Kerr
Doug Kielau
Cecil Knuttila
Andrew Murphy
Ken O'Brien
Laurie Berger Porter
Patrick Porter
Barb Smith
Darrell Smith
Gordon Trost
Ann Weerstra
Bryne Weerstra
Derry White
Ora White

To all of our stewards, we thank you for the time you have spent on your special place and commend you for your invaluable commitment to the volunteer steward program. We look forward to the receipt of future inspection reports!

Special thanks also goes to Mary Anne Rasmussen, who has volunteered on several occasions to come into the office to dig us out from beneath numerous piles of paper.

From the staff of the Heritage Protection and Education Branch



Have a Great Year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

A Regular Feature to keep Volunteer Stewards and Interested Individuals Informed of Upcoming Events

Access Management: Understanding the Issues

The legal, socio-economic and ecological aspects of access management on public land are currently being debated in the media, the regulatory process, and the courts. The views vary depending on the interests of the people involved. Obviously all stakeholders feel they use the land responsibly. But do we fully understand the concept of access management, and all the issues and concerns associated with it? Are the polarized views that seem to dominate the issue today the result of an incomplete understanding.

Join us in Calgary in April 1996 to discuss and debate the subject of access management in western Canada. Together we can increase understanding about this issue and, through understanding, find ways to resolve the current debate.

April 10 and 11, 1996
Westin Hotel, Calgary, AB

A Conference Organized By: The Alberta Society of Professional Biologists

For further information regarding the program, contact:

Bonnie Holtby
Alberta Society of Professional Biologists

Telephone: (403) 434-5765
1-800-711-5765 (Alberta)

Fax: (403) 435-7503

E-mail: aspb@ccinet.ab.ca

Forest - Fish Conference

Land Management Practices Affecting Aquatic Ecosystems
c/o Trout Unlimited Canada
P.O. Box 6270, Station D
Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2C8

May 1 - 4, 1996
Marlborough Inn and Convention Centre, Calgary, Alberta.

The conference is being organized by a multi-agency Steering Committee with representatives from Alberta Fish and Game Association, Alberta Forest Products Association, Alberta Land and Forest Service, Alberta Fisheries Management Division, NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd., Sunpine Forest Products Ltd., Trout Unlimited Canada (Alberta Council), Woodlot Association of Alberta, Department of Renewable Resources (University of Alberta).

The Steering Committee has organized the Forest - Fish Conference to:

- facilitate the exchange of information concerning relationships between forest land-use activities and aquatic resources among an international assemblage of technical experts;
- increase awareness of management solutions that improve watershed protection and minimize the impacts of forest land-use activities on aquatic environments;
- increase opportunities for stakeholders to work together to find cooperative solutions to potential forestry-related problems;
- identify benefits, or ways and means of providing benefits, of forest management practices affecting aquatic resources; and
- publish the proceedings from the conference.

For more information call (403) 221-8369 or fax (403) 221-8368

SITE ACTIVITIES

August 16, 1995 — November 30, 1995

A Regular Feature to keep Volunteer Stewards and Interested Individuals Informed of Activities Occurring On Our Sites

ALBERTA BEACH (222):
site reservation renewed

ANTON LAKE (42):
grazing lease renewed

BAPTISTE LAKE (422):
site reservation renewed

BATTLE LAKE SOUTH (220):
site reservation renewed

BEAVERHILL (87):
grazing lease renewed

BIG SAGEBRUSH (424):
cattle reported accessing slopes

BLEAK LAKE (526):
site reservation renewed, seismic program cancelled

BRAZEAU TUFA (467):
site reservation renewed

BRIDGE LAKE (48):
site reservation renewed

BUFFALO TRAIL (429):
seismic program approved with conditions

CASLAN (394):
License of Occupation approved

CHEDDERVILLE (130):
site reservation renewed

COSSACK (54):
seismic program approved with conditions; site reservation renewed

COYOTE LAKE (275):
wellsite approved with reduced pad size; small borrow pit approved in NW32-49-4-W5

CROWSNEST (392):
site reservation renewed

EAGLE HILL (407):
site reservation renewed

EAGLE NEST (537):
License of Occupation and easement approved for water well and driveway access to private property

EDSON WEST (452):
pipeline approved

EDSON SOUTH (44):
reservation review requested

FORT MACLEOD (406):
site reservation renewed

FROG LAKE HERONRY (73):
site reservation renewed

GEORGE LAKE AREA (387):
site reservation renewed

HINDVILE (88):
site reservation renewed

IRISH CREEK (481):
site reservation renewed

ISLAND LAKE (59):
site reservation renewed

J.J. COLLETT (145):
grazing permit approved to J.J Collett Foundation

KEG RIVER (553):
proposed seismic program approved with conditions (hand cut lines)

LAC LA BICHE ISLANDS (337):
site reservation renewed

LAC TREMBLE (85):
site reservation renewed

LITTLE SMOKY IOSEGUN (257):
site reservation renewed

LLOYD CREEK (270):
access was not allowed for seismic program

LOMOND (33):
site reservation renewed

LOST RIVER (15):
site reservation renewed; seismic program amended with conditions: Vehicles on existing trails only, use of vehicles on trails under dry or frozen conditions only, hand string lines off of existing trails.

Continued on next page

National Library of Canada
Bibliothèque nationale du Canada
3 3286 51209 1329

Return Address:
Recreation and Protected Areas Division
10405 Jasper Avenue
8th Floor, Standard Life Centre
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3N4

MANLY CORNER (482):
site reservations renewed

MITSUE LAKE (479):
site reservation renewed

MODESTE CREEK (281):
seismic program approved with conditions (use existing lines where ever possible; hand-cut lines in some locations)

MOOSE LAKE ISLANDS (168):
site reservation renewed

NORTHVILLE SOUTH (423):
site reservation renewed

OPAL (61):
site reservation renewed

PAINTEARTH COULEE (397):
site reservation renewed

PEMBINA FIELD (303):
License of Occupation approved

PEMBINA BIGORAY (460):
site reservation renewed

PERRYVALE (522):
seismic program approved with conditions (SW15-63-23-W4: hand-cut/hand-string with avoidance cutting)

PIGEON LAKE (240):
site reservation renewed

PINE LAKE (47):
site reservation renewed

POPLAR CREEK (280):
site reservation renewed

PRAIRIE CREEK CLEARWATER (495):
site reservation renewed

PRIMULA (89):
pipeline approved with conditions (right of way must follow the existing access to the wellsite.

REDWILLOW FALLS (508):
seismic program approved with conditions (foot access only; no disturbance permitted)

SMITHFIELD (415):
site reservation renewed

STRAWBERRY CREEK (242):
site reservation renewed

SUNDRE (227):
site reservation renewed

TAWATINAW (519):
seismic program approved with conditions

TORLEA (101):
site reservation renewed

VEGA (430):
site reservation renewed

WAGNER (142):
The Wagner Natural Area Society converted the Wagner slide show to video

WASHOUT SASKATCHEWAN (302):
seismic program approved with conditions (foot access only in S33-47-7-W5)

WHITECOURT (232):
site reservation renewed

WILLOW CREEK (506):
site reservation renewed

Alberta
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Printed on Recycled Paper